

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07781 301144Z

23 45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 /078 W
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R 301020Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6489

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7781

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, YE, IS

SUBJECT: SAUDI CONCERN AT PLANE OVERFLIGHTS OF NORTH YEMEN
AND RUMORS OF IMPENDING ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION

REF: SANA 4220

1. CUTTING OFF ABRUPTLY ANOTHER SUBJECT WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING IN OUR MEETING NOVEMBER 29, CROWN PRINCE FAHD SAID SAG HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM HAMDI (NORTH YEMEN) TO THE EFFECT THAT FOREIGN PLANES HAD BEEN OVERFLYING HIS COUNTRY. HAMDI DIDN'T GIVE EITHER NATIONALITY OR FLIGHT DIRECTION DATA. CROWN PRINCE ASKED IF WE HAVE INFO CONCERNING THIS DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THERE HAD ALSO BEEN MANY RUMORS OF LATE ABOUT IMPENDING ISRAELI ATTACKS AGAINST EGYPT AND SYRIA AND EVEN AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA.

2. WE HAD ONLY WHAT THE YARG HAD ANNOUNCED CONCERNING THE OVERFLIGHTS, I SAID. WE HAD NOTED DURING PAST FEW DAYS, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI AIR FORCE HAD BEEN PLACED ON ALERT. WAS THAT CONNECTED WITH RUMORS HE MENTIONED? HE SAID IT WAS, AND ASKED AGAIN IF WE WOULD SUPPLY HIM WITH ANY AVAILABLE INFO RE FLIGHTS OVER YEMEN. HE SEEMED DISTURBED AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THEY CAME FROM ETHIOPIA OR SOMALIA.

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3. AS FOR ISRAELIS, HE WANTED TO MAKE ONE THING CLEAR: SAUDI

ARABIA WANTS NO CONFRONTATION PROBLEMS WITH ISRAEL NO MATTER HOW MANY ARMS SAUDIS ACQUIRE. THAT WAS WHY TWO SAUDI BRIGADES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM JORDAN AND SYRIA. SAUDIS HAVE NO DESIRE EXCEPT TO SEE A DECENT SETTLEMENT REACHED BETWEEN ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS AND NEIGHBORING STATES. BUT IF SAUDI ARABIA IS ATTACKED SHE WILL OF COURSE DEFEND HERSELF. I SAID I WOULD PASS TO HIM ANYTHING I COULD OBTAIN ABOUT RUMORS AND OVERFLIGHTS.

4. FOR AMBASSADOR SCOTES: WOULD YOU THINK YAR MESSAGE TO SAG PRESAGES YEMENI "HAWKS FOR HAMDI" PUSH ALONG LINES OF RECENT "HAWKS FOR HUSSEIN" HASSLE?
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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